AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows. These amendments do not add new matter, but merely correct typographical errors:

Please amend the paragraph from lines 16-25 on page 7 as follows, to change the reference character from "Θ" to "q" to conform to the figures:

> In the present invention, mounting block 20 includes protrusion 42 which creates an angled or inclined mounting surface 44 on the bottom side of mounting block 20. Angled surface 44, with respect to the top plane of mounting block 20 is at an angle ~~Θ~~ q greater than zero degrees, but less than ninety degrees. The amount of preload that is placed on load beam 36 can be varied based on the degree of incline of angled surface 44. Angled surface 44 is also sloped in a direction toward the surface of disc 26. Proximal region 38 of head gimbal assembly 18 is then attached to the angled surface of mounting block 20, so that head gimbal assembly 18 is also sloped in a direction toward the surface of disc 26. Hinge region 34 of head gimbal assembly 18 remains unbent in its free state.

Please amend the paragraph from page 9, line 22 to page 10, line 4, to change the word "with" to "when":

> FIG. 4B is a side view of an alternative embodiment to the embodiment described in FIG. 4A. In this embodiment, wedge 56 is attached to the top side of mounting block 20B rather than the bottom side of mounting block 20B. Wedge 56 has a flat surface 58 which is attached to the surface of mounting block 20B by any suitable means including, but not limited to solder, swage, bolts and screws. Wedge 56 also has a sloped surface 60 which base plate 32 of head

gimbal assembly 18 can be attached to via methods described in FIG. 1. The attachment of wedge 56 on the top side of mounting block 20B does not effect the function of the invention. The addition of wedge 56 still allows for hinge region 34 to remain unbent in its free state and to bend ~~with~~ when it is loaded onto a magnetic media without having to retool a regular mounting block.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 9, 14 and 19, and cancel claims 2, 4, 10, 12, 15 and 17 without prejudice, such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An actuator for data storage devices, the actuator comprising:

an actuator arm having a proximal end and a distal end, the actuator arm being rotatable in a rotational plane for supporting a transducer with respect to a data storage medium; and

a head gimbal assembly connected to the distal end of the actuator arm at an inclined angle with respect to the rotational plane of the actuator arm, wherein the head gimbal assembly comprises:

a load beam having a proximal region, a distal region, and a hinge region between the proximal region and the distal region;

a slider for carrying the transducer, wherein the slider includes an air-bearing surface; and

a gimbal connecting the slider to the distal region of the load beam.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The actuator of claim 2 wherein the head gimbal assembly comprises a base plate at the proximal region of the load beam.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The actuator of claim 2 wherein the hinge region includes a notch across the load beam.

6. (Original) The actuator of claim 1 wherein the actuator arm includes a mounting block having an angled surface.

7. (Original) The actuator of claim 6 wherein the mounting block is positioned on a side of the actuator arm that is facing the data storage medium.

8. (Original) The actuator of claim 1 and further comprising:

a wedge with a planar surface and an angled surface, wherein the actuator arm is attached to the planar surface of the wedge and the head gimbal assembly is attached to the angled surface of the wedge.

9. (Currently amended) A data storage device, the storage device comprising:

a data storage disc;

a rotatable arm with a distal end and a proximal end; and

a head gimbal assembly attached to the distal end at an angle so that when loaded against the disc, the head gimbal assembly is concave in a direction facing away from the disc, wherein the head gimbal assembly comprises:

a load beam having a proximal region, a distal region, and a hinge region between the proximal region and the distal region;

a slider for carrying a transducer; and

a gimbal connecting the slider to the distal region of the load beam.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The data storage device of claim 10 wherein the head gimbal assembly further comprises a base plate at the proximal region of the load beam.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The data storage device of claim 10 wherein the hinge region includes a notch across the load beam.

14. (Currently amended) An actuator for positioning a transducer with respect to a storage medium in a storage device, the actuator comprising:

a mounting block with a sloped mounting surface wherein the sloped mounting surface is greater than zero degrees, but less than ninety degrees with respect to a top plane of the mounting block so that the sloped mounting surface creates a downward plane; and

a head gimbal assembly attached to the sloped mounting surface of the mounting block, wherein the head gimbal assembly comprises:

a load beam having a proximal region, a distal region, and a hinge region between the proximal region and the distal region;

a slider for carrying a transducer; and

a gimbal connecting the slider to the distal region of the load beam.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The actuator of claim 15 wherein the head gimbal assembly further comprises a base plate at the proximal end of the load beam.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The actuator of claim 15 wherein the hinge region includes a notch across the load beam.

19. (Currently amended) A method of assembling an actuator, the method comprising:

attaching an unbent head gimbal assembly to a mounting block with a sloped surface, the head gimbal assembly having a hinge region; and

loading the head gimbal assembly onto a data storage medium to create a permanent bend in the hinge region so that a portion of the head gimbal assembly assumes a concave shape facing away from the data storage medium.